

Application Number 10/537391
Response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an analytical tool, the method comprising a reagent member forming process for providing a base plate with a reagent member that includes a stack of at least two reagent layers separated by an intervening separation layer, each of the reagent layers containing a reagent that reacts with a specific component contained in sample liquid and is different from a reagent contained in other reagent layer.

~~wherein the reagent member forming process comprises each of the reagent layers is formed by repeating a plurality of a combined step of applying and drying steps in which material liquid containing the reagent is applied and then drying the material liquid is dried.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the ~~plurality~~ combined step of applying and drying the material liquid steps are ~~is~~ performed with use of material liquid containing a same reagent for each of the reagent layers.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the ~~plurality~~ combined step of applying and drying the material liquid steps are ~~is~~ performed 2-200 times.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the material liquid applied to each of the reagent layers contains 0.1-60 wt% of the reagent.

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5. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the base plate comprises a reagent holding portion formed as a recess including a bottom surface and a side surface,

wherein the reagent member is formed in contact with the bottom surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein the material liquid for the reagent layer formed at a bottom of the reagent member is applied to an area of the bottom surface spaced from the side surface by a constant distance.

7. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 6, wherein the distance between the side surface and the area applied with the material liquid is no smaller than 0.1 μm .

8. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein the reagent holding portion has a depth of 50-200 μm .

9. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein the recess has a volume of 0.05-5 μL .

10. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the material liquid is applied to the reagent layer with use of an inkjet-type dispenser.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 10, wherein the dispenser is designed to dispense a droplet of 10-2000 pL,

wherein the dispenser is used for applying the material liquid to the reagent layer in a manner such that a plurality of droplets are attached to an application target portion.

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12. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein an amount of the material liquid applied in each combined step of the applying and drying the material liquid steps is 1-200 nL.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the material liquid applied to each of the reagent layers is dried by supply of heat energy.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 13, wherein ~~the supply of the~~ heat energy is ~~performed~~ supplied by utilizing radiant heat applied from above the applied material liquid.

15. (Original) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 13, wherein the supply of heat energy is attained by holding a heat source in contact with a rear surface of the base plate.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein a thin layer having a thickness of 0.1-5.0 μm is formed at each combined step of ~~the~~ applying and drying the material liquid steps,

wherein the reagent ~~member~~ layer is formed by the repeated combined step to ~~have~~ has a thickness of 1.0-50.0 μm upon completion of the reagent member forming process.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

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20. (New) A method of manufacturing an analytical tool, the method comprising a reagent member forming process for providing a base plate with a reagent member containing a reagent that reacts with a specific component contained in sample liquid, wherein the reagent member forming process comprises performing repeating an applying and drying material liquid step, in each of the applying and drying material liquid step the material liquid containing the reagent is applied and then is dried, wherein the base plate comprises a reagent holding portion formed as a recess including a bottom surface and a side surface, and wherein the reagent member comprises a group of individual reagent dots formed entirely within the recess and spaced from the side surface, the reagent dots in the group being held in contact with each other, the group of the reagent dots including a plurality of subgroups of reagent dots, each subgroup of reagent dots containing a different reagent.

21. (New) A method of manufacturing an analytical tool, the method comprising a reagent member forming process for providing a base plate with a plurality of reagent members, each reagent member containing a reagent that reacts with a specific component contained in sample liquid and is different from the reagent in other reagent member,

wherein each of the reagent members is formed by repeating a combined step of applying and drying material liquid in which the material liquid containing the reagent is applied and then is dried,

wherein the base plate comprises a flow path including a reagent holding portion formed as a recess, the recess including a bottom surface and a side surface, and

wherein at least one of the reagent members is formed in the recess, at least one other reagent member being formed within the flow path at a portion other than the recess.